

We claim:

1. A polymer composite comprising keratin and at least one polymer.
2. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, polylactic acid, polyvinyl alcohol, polycaprolactone, polyhydroxy ester ether, polyhydroxybutyrate, polyhydroxyalkanoates, polystyrene, polycarbonate, polymethyl methacrylate, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, polyurethane, epoxies, and mixtures thereof.
3. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyethylene, polypropylene, polyamide, polyesters, polyvinyl chloride, and mixtures thereof.
4. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is present in an amount from about 0.1 weight percent to about 99.9 weight percent by weight or volume.
5. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of hair, nail, hoof, horn, avian feathers, and mixtures thereof.

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• 6. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from avian feathers.

7. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of avian feather fiber keratin, avian feather quill keratin, and mixtures thereof.

8. The polymer composite according to claim 1, wherein said keratin is obtained from avian feather fiber keratin.

• 9. A molded article prepared from the polymer composite according to claim 1.